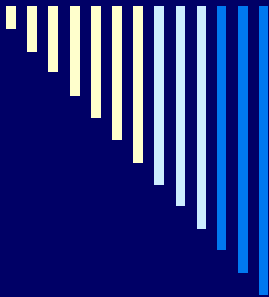


The Role Of MRC Volunteers in Meeting the Surgeon General's HEALTH PRIORITIES

Ambassadors of the Surgeon General

NATIONAL MRC CONFERENCE
Dallas, Texas
April 2006



Members of the Working Group

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Major Objectives of Surgeon General Priorities Focus Group

- ❑ To Serve as “Ambassadors of the Surgeon General”
 - ❑ To brainstorm/share with other MRC units, the role MRC volunteers can play in Disease Prevention in their community
 - ❑ To brainstorm/share with other MRC units, the role MRC volunteers can play in reduction of health disparities in their community
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Major Objectives of Surgeon General Priorities Focus Group cont.....

- ❑ To assist MRC units in fully engaging their volunteers toward the improvement of health in their respective communities.
 - ❑ To introduce this as a method of retention and marketing for MRC unit volunteers who are not just simply training for disasters (that hopefully never occur) but more involved in meeting other needs in their communities
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Surgeon General Priorities

- ▣ Increase Disease Prevention
 - ▣ Eliminate Health Disparities
 - ▣ Improve Public Health Preparedness
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Increase Disease Prevention

- Overweight and Obesity
 - Increase Physical Activity
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Tobacco Use
 - Prevention of Birth Defects
 - Preventing Injury
-



Eliminate Health Disparities

Breast cancer

Lung cancer

Prostate cancer

Cervical cancer

Dental care and oral cancer,
(especially within the Native
American and Native Alaskan
communities)

Cardiovascular disease

Diabetes and other illnesses in
minority communities.



Improve Public Health Preparedness

- Terrorism
 - Emerging Infectious Diseases
 - Natural Disasters
 - Mental Health
-



What Can MRC Volunteers Do?

- **Do not re-invent the wheel.** Usually, your local health department has many health initiatives that can use MRC volunteers.
 - DeKalb's MRC collaborates with Steps to a Healthier DeKalb initiative. DeKalb STEPS focuses on preventing diabetes, obesity and hospitalization due to asthma by improving nutrition, physical activity and reducing tobacco use.

 - **Foster Public/Private Partnerships**
 - **Operation Lone Star in Texas: Texas State Guard MRC works with other area State Military Forces to provide Medical and Dental care to underserved population.**
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Develop a new initiative....

Based on the risk assessment of your local community

- ❑ Government funded dental programs are chronically short of personnel. . MRC could recruit and train personnel (target retired dental personal but others could also be helpful) to specifically administer the disease control aspects of care.
- ❑ One MRC unit is supplying Medical Care in Red Cross shelters and supplying medications for free to shelter residents via volunteer donations from area physicians and pharmacists.



More Things Volunteers Can Do: Brain Storming Ideas

- ❑ Provide medical services (if skilled) for specific screenings
 - ❑ Conduct a community needs assessment or windshield surveys
 - ❑ Conduct community education sessions on various disparity issues
 - ❑ Work on local policy issues
 - ❑ Adopt a neighborhood or school
 - ❑ Create a community resource booklet
 - ❑ Create other marketing, media and education materials
 - ❑ Provide translation for specific populations
 - ❑ Provide grant writing skills
 - ❑ Provide clerical and/or data assistance for special clinics
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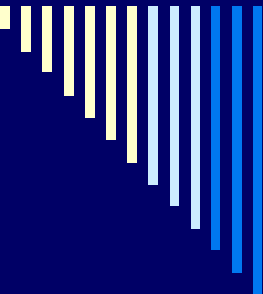
Planned activities

- Construct and disseminate questionnaire to all units
 - objective of the questionnaire
 - the questionnaire will also inquire about skills that are lacking in most MRC units that are needed to fill surge capacity, such as dentists and public health professionals.
- Prepare and distribute resource packet to be distributed to all MRC units.
 - The resource packet will include
 - a listing of each of the priorities
 - ways to get involved
 - the MRC Surgeon General Priorities card
 - contacts for those already doing projects



Goal:

To share on an ongoing basis "best practices" or successful models with other MRCs on the use of volunteers in addressing health disparities

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